

Scenic Quality within Roadless Areas for Green Horse Project Area

Of the three Idaho Roadless Rule areas found within the project boundary, only two have any proposed management activities, O'Hara-Falls Creek and West Meadow Creek. Both roadless areas are designated as Backcountry Restoration, which allows management activities designed to reduce hazardous fuel conditions under some circumstances. Vegetation would be removed using intermediate timber harvest adjacent to existing roadways within the O'Hara - Falls Creek IRA along several roadways to create a fuel break, including the O'Hara Point South Road 9711, Boundary Ridge Road 464, the Saddle Ridge Road 2103, and the Stillman Point Road 356. Along portions of the Stillman Point Road 356, prescribed fire is also proposed to the west of the existing roadway. Within the West Meadow Creek IRA, fuel breaks developed through intermediate timber harvest would occur adjacent to the Off Center Road 2116. The natural character along these roadways varies from open landscapes with groups of trees intermingled with small areas of coniferous to areas where the coniferous vegetation is continuous. Many of the areas where the continuous vegetation occurs also show large areas affected by insect and disease activity or past wildfire events.

Proposed fuel break harvest and prescribed burning would improve safety along the roadways without changing the overall character of the landscape. There are many areas within the roadless area, especially along the ridgetops which currently have a relatively open character with a mixture of deciduous and coniferous vegetation. When complete, the proposed fuel break areas would appear similar to those natural areas of mixed vegetation. Given the type of harvest and the open nature of the location of many of these activities, the harvest would meet the VQOs of *Modification* and *Maximum Modification* found in these roadless areas.



Figure 01 - Area adjacent to the Stillman Point Road showing insect and disease activity adjacent to the roadway.

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Figure 1 - This area adjacent to the Stillman Point Road is proposed for prescribed burning and currently is relatively open with occasional groups of coniferous trees. This example of mixed coniferous and deciduous vegetation would be similar to the appearance of the area after the fuel break harvest.